UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF MISSISSIPPI, et al., Individually and On Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

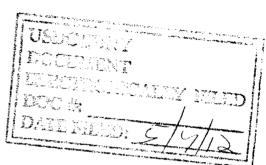
Plaintiffs,

v,

MERRILL LYNCH & CO. INC., et al.,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 08-cv-10841-JSR-JLC ECF case



[PROPOSED] ORDER APPROVING PLAN OF ALLOCATION OF NET SETTLEMENT FUND

This matter came on for hearing on March 21, 2012 (the "Settlement Hearing") on Lead Plaintiff's motion to determine, among other things, whether the proposed plan of allocation of the Net Settlement Fund ("Plan of Allocation") created by the Settlement achieved in the above-captioned consolidated securities class action (the "Action") should be approved.

The Court having considered all matters submitted to it at the Settlement Hearing and otherwise; and it appearing that notice of the Settlement Hearing substantially in the form approved by the Court was mailed to all Settlement Class Members who or which could be identified with reasonable effort, except those persons or entities excluded from the definition of the Settlement Class, and that a summary notice of the hearing substantially in the form approved by the Court was published in *The Wall Street Journal* and was transmitted over the *PR Newswire* pursuant to the specifications of the Court; and the Court having considered and determined the fairness and reasonableness of the proposed Plan of Allocation.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that:

1. This Order approving the proposed Plan of Allocation incorporates by reference the

definitions in the Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement dated December 5, 2011 (ECF No. 174-1) (the "Stipulation") and all terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the same meanings as set forth in the Stipulation.

- 2. The Court has jurisdiction to enter this Order approving the proposed Plan of Allocation, and over the subject matter of the Action and all parties to the Action, including all Settlement Class Members.
- 3. Notice of Lead Plaintiff's motion for approval of the proposed Plan of Allocation was given to all Settlement Class Members who or which could be identified with reasonable effort. The form and method of notifying the Settlement Class of the motion for approval of the proposed Plan of Allocation satisfied the requirements of due process, Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and Section 27 of the Securities Act of 1933, 15 U.S.C. § 77z-1(a)(7), as amended by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, and constituted the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and constituted due and sufficient notice to all persons and entities entitled thereto.
- 4. Copies of the Notice, which included the Plan of Allocation, were mailed to over 10,000 potential Settlement Class Members or their nominees and there are no objections to the proposed plan.
- 5. The Court hereby finds and concludes that the formula for the calculation of the claims of Claimants as set forth in the Plan of Allocation mailed to Settlement Class Members provides a fair and reasonable basis upon which to allocate the proceeds of the Net Settlement Fund among Settlement Class Members with due consideration having been given to administrative convenience and necessity.

- 6. The Court hereby finds and concludes that the Plan of Allocation is, in all respects, fair and reasonable to the Settlement Class. Accordingly, the Court hereby approves the Plan of Allocation proposed by Lead Plaintiff.
- 7. There is no just reason for delay in the entry of this Order, and immediate entry by the Clerk of the Court is expressly directed.

SO ORDERED this 7th day of May, 2012.

HONORABLE JED S. RAKOFF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

#624955